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24 MS. SNYDER: Before you recess can, I say a  
25 couple of things? That way I can give Robin her book

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1 back. Although if I could keep it, that would be  
2 handy. I found my pen. Oh, great. Okay, again, for  
3 the record, my name is Susi Snyder. And I work with  
4 the Shundahai Network in Pahrump.

5 I have a couple of additional comments this  
6 evening. And one of this was mentioned earlier.

7 Number one, Secretary Abraham knows how dangerous  
8 transporting radioactive waste is. Knows that it's a  
9 target on our roads and on our rails. Knows it so well  
10 that even what is seemingly, what is occasionally  
11 called safe, the low-level radioactive waste shipments  
12 about, what is it, over a thousand of which we have  
13 coming into the test site every year, even these  
14 shipments were halted after the 11th. After a couple  
15 of weeks, they resumed, but then on Sunday, once again,  
16 shipments were stopped. All shipments to the WIPP,  
17 Waste Isolation Pilot Project in New Mexico have been  
18 stopped. This is because they are dangerous.

19 And I'm glad that the Secretary recognized

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20 that and acknowledged it by halting the shipments.

21 The other thing I wanted to talk about is

22 environmental racism. And people of color,

23 disenfranchised communities have been

24 disproportionately impacted in United States nuclear

25 programs, from the get-go. It's always, nuclear

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1 facilities are always sited in poor people of color

2 rural communities. That's just how it goes, because

3 those folks are seen as having less political power.

4 And I wanted to say that no one has ever

5 shown me any way proof that the United States

6 Government, the federal government or the Department of

7 Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration,

8 Bureau of Land Management, whatever acronym agency you

9 want to throw out there, actually owns Yucca Mountain.

10 I know that proof of title is necessary for the NRC

11 license application. And I'm just wondering how the

12 Department of Energy expects to get that? I guess

13 they're hoping that Harry Reid's Senate Bill 958 will

14 go through and the Shoshone will be screwed again. But

15 that's, you know, we seriously doubt that's going to

16 happen.

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17       And I have seen the 1863 Treaty of Ruby  
18 Valley. I have seen maps laid out by Nuclear  
19 Management for Native Communities. I have seen maps  
20 laid out by the Western Shoshone National Council, the  
21 traditional government of those people, showing me  
22 where indeed Shoshone land is, and that does include  
23 Yucca Mountain.

24       In fact, Yucca Mountain is in the heart of  
25 it. So that shows to me that the Shoshone are the  
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1   rightful land owners, and I've asked, I don't know how  
2   many times, and I have heard other people ask over and  
3   over and over again, show me the proof. Show me the  
4   paper that says it belongs to the Department of Energy.  
5   Or another acronym of your choosing.

6       Secondly -- thirdly, I'd like to address  
7   Executive Order 12898, which is a federal actions to  
8   address environmental justice in minority populations  
9   and low income populations. Okay, this directs, this  
10   executive order directs federal agencies to address  
11   activities which would cause disproportionately high  
12   and adverse impacts to minority or low-income  
13   populations.

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14        Okay, I took this out of one of y'all's  
15 books. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement, you  
16 know, our old friend. The one that doesn't answer any  
17 questions. And so I go back, so I read this about the  
18 executive order, and then I go to, I don't know how you  
19 break this down, Section 4.1.13.4, which says the title  
20 of which is Native American perspective. And this  
21 section quotes, hmm, quotes American Indian  
22 perspectives on the Yucca Mountain Site  
23 Characterization Project and the Repository  
24 Environmental Impact Statement, referenced AIWS, which  
25 says the past, present and future pollution of these

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1 holy lands, that includes Nevada test site and Yucca  
2 Mountain, of these holy lands constitutes both  
3 environmental justice and equity violations. No other  
4 people have had their holy lands impacted by  
5 YMP-related activities.

6        What they're saying is that the Shoshone  
7 people have had their holy lands impacted by these  
8 activities. And it's true. I'm very lucky, very  
9 blessed to know a number of Shoshone elders, a number  
10 of folks in that tribe, who are so upset because they

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11 can't gather in their traditional spring gathering  
12 place. Which is on the eastern side of Yucca Mountain.  
13 Because now the north portal and the south portal are  
14 there, and in fact they've been forced to gather on the  
15 western side of Yucca Mountain, which kind of, when  
16 you're doing sunrise ceremony, it has a time impact on  
17 you, you know. I don't know that any of you would  
18 understand that, but I'll hope.

19 And so these folks have had a direct impact  
20 already by the characterization processes that have  
21 gone on at Yucca Mountain. They're not permitted to  
22 pray in the place that they have been praying for  
23 thousands of years. Okay, that's environmental racism.  
24 That's genocide when you take away a person's culture,  
25 when you take away their land rights, their rights to  
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1 pray. Where they pray. If I said, okay, I want to  
2 build a nuclear waste dump in the Vatican, you people  
3 would be like, "Oh my God, she's crazy." Right? But  
4 you're doing that, and attempting this project is  
5 attempting to build a nuclear waste dump in a very  
6 sacred, spiritual ground. And I just want that to be  
7 addressed and I never see it addressed or very rarely

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8 hear anything.

9 It's again, like the millions of questions

10 I've asked and never heard answers to. So just one

11 more thing out of this Draft Environmental Impact

12 Statement.

13 See, I commented on this document a number of

14 times. I even flew to Washington, D.C. to comment on

15 this. That took a chunk out of my wallet. But it was

16 worth it. Because I got my comments out, and there are

17 only a handful of us in the room. But this thing,

18 Section 6.2.5, which is the environmental justice

19 section, in this analysis of the different, of -- it's

20 part of the transportation analysis, talking about the

21 transportation through different reservations, because

22 this waste, if moved, according to the sketchy plan

23 laid out, would go through quite a number of

24 reservations, including the Shoshone Reservation in

25 Idaho, which was the one figured out in this particular

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1 section.

2 And the analysis of an incident-free

3 transportation scenario said there would be no, no

4 impact, no adverse impact. Of course there's going to

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5 be no impact from an incident-free scenario, and why, I  
6 ask it again, why is there no analysis of an incident?  
7 Or an accident? Or a scenario that indeed would have  
8 an adverse impact? I think it's because Department of  
9 Energy and the folks at Yucca Mountain Project are  
10 scared of acknowledging that, yes, this project will  
11 kill people. And it will kill lots of people. And it  
12 will cause harm to not just big people, but little  
13 people. You know, all sorts of people, whatever color,  
14 shape, size, religion, faith, whatever you want, but it  
15 will have an impact, and a disproportionately,  
16 disproportionately -- I guess the word is adverse  
17 impact, especially on the people of color and  
18 disenfranchised community of this country, with, you  
19 know, most of the rail and highways, rails and highways  
20 of this country run through people of color  
21 communities.

22 And I'm sure you folks have looked at some of  
23 the comments that you got in Atlanta last year. Or  
24 that you got in Chicago -- I think there was a hearing  
25 in Chicago or in St. Louis. And indeed heard that,  
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1 yes, people along the transportation routes are

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2 extremely concerned. We are extremely concerned that  
3 there's been no final Environmental Impact Statement  
4 before this process, which I'm not even going to go  
5 there right now. But that there has been, you know,  
6 that this impact on again, people of color and  
7 disenfranchised communities, which this executive order  
8 charges you as a federal agency to look at, and to  
9 really examine, this was not done in a thorough way,  
10 and it was not done in a way which can make people in  
11 these communities feel any better about this project.

12       And just, you know, for a point of order  
13 again, these hearings that you've got going on right  
14 now, this is not a, not simply a Nevada issue. And  
15 it's not appropriate to have these hearings only in  
16 Nevada, because this project impacts millions and  
17 millions of people. Your own analysis says 15 million  
18 people can potentially be impacted by this project.  
19 And to not have recommendation hearings, I mean these  
20 things should be televised. You know, CNN should be  
21 here covering this hearing live, so that people can see  
22 around the country what kind of project is being talked  
23 about. And what could potentially be going through  
24 their yards. So I'm going to leave it at that at the



25 moment, and who knows, I may have more to say. Later.

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1 But --

2 MODERATOR BROWN: Thanks a lot.

3 MS. SNYDER: Thanks.